

Dress Right, Dress

AFI 36-2903, Table 2.2

As approved by the 96th Air Force Uniform Board, effective immediately, Airmen may either wear the black or gray scarf in uniform. A phase-out date for the gray scarf will be determined based on the depletion of current stock at the Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia, Penn. (Courtesy of the Spangdahlem AB First Sergeants Council)



News Briefs

Official ceremonies, events

People tasked to plan events or ceremonies at Spangdahlem AB to which senior wing leadership are invited must contact 52nd Fighter Wing Protocol. Protocol will review the sequence of events, script, introductions, seating and any other aspect of the event to ensure all is being done according to correct protocol and wing policy. For more information, e-mail protocol at 52fw.ccpo@spangdahlem.af.mil or call Sue Christensen at 452-6057.

MDG closure

The 52nd Medical Group will close March 3 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for training. People in need of urgent care should go to the Bitburg Annex hospital emergency room for treatment.

BRC news

♦ The Spangdahlem AB Base Recycling Center has relocated to building 64. The Spangdahlem AB BRC hours of operation are: Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

♦ As of March 1, Bitburg-Pruem County will collect all recycled glass according to three categories: clear, green or other and brown. Glass recycling containers are at the following locations:

Spangdahlem AB: the Base Recycling Center, building 64; lodging's dumpster enclosure across from the gas station, building 38; the Brick House dumpster enclosure, building 124; dormitories 225 and 226; the dormitory dumpster enclosure at building 227; the bowling alley, building 300; Club Eifel, building 500; and the area across from buildings 409 and 423, Spangdahlem AB MFH. **Bitburg Annex:** The base recycling center, building 2038; buildings 1, 27, 41, and building 61 in the hospital parking lot. **Speicher GLH:** Near the tennis court by building 214. People must follow the new guidelines and dispose of glass in the proper containers. For more information, call the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron service contracts section at 452-6183 or e-mail 52ces.ceomq@spangdahlem.af.mil.

WGM meeting

The 52nd Fighter Wing Workgroup Managers' quarterly meeting takes place Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Spangdahlem AB theater. All primary and alternate WGMs are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Master Sgt. Patricia Wilson at 452-5530.

On target

Read about how Saber pilots can lock, load and launch with precision thanks to a new system.

Read "New laser targeting pods strike with precision, lethality," on Page 2



Eifel Times

Vol. 39, Issue 7

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Feb. 18, 2005



Master Sgt. Sean E. Cobb

Staff Sgt. Andrew Smith, 52nd Maintenance Group quality assurance inspector, checks an F-16CJ fuel supply switch during an Exercise Evaluation Team acceptance inspection Feb. 9. The 52nd MXG quality assurance team inspected every aircraft generated for Operation Desert Return 05-02.

Wing readiness steadily improves

Spang Airmen simulate speedy deployment to train for U.S., NATO taskings

By Senior Airman Amaani Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Operation Desert Return 05-02 held here Feb. 7-11, marked another in a string of deployment and combat simulations in which 52nd Fighter Wing Airmen demonstrated constant readiness to project superior combat power.

A U.S. Air Forces in Europe Operational Readiness Inspection is tentatively slated to take place here in June.

"We saw tremendous improvement throughout the wing in relation to November 2004's exercise," said Col. Scott D. West, 52nd Fighter Wing vice commander. "The 52nd Maintenance Group tackled the tough challenge of generating, deploying, regenerating and employing more than 40 aircraft."

"We were able to quickly generate and deploy Saber capabilities needed downrange," he added. "Afterward, the 52nd Operations Group was able to employ our A-10 and F-16 aircraft in support of notional combat taskings."

The exercise involved an elaborate mock deployment of people, equipment and aircraft to an established area of responsibility in the Middle East, said Maj. Mark Barrera, 52nd FW inspections chief.

"A tremendous amount of enthusiasm and preparation went into this exercise, and the Exercise Evaluation Team observed a lot more focus from Airmen to improve upon the one from last fall," the major said.

Colonel West explained that wing members, led by the 52nd Mission Support Group, coordinated a complex logistical process that relied upon the efforts of teams including the 52nd Security Forces Squadron's weapons training section, the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron's deployment control center and cargo marshalling teams, and the 52nd Mission Support Squadron's personnel deployment function.

The colonel added that wing Airmen zealously met a demanding strategic cargo lift schedule, thanks to the efforts of the 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron and 52nd Mission Support Squadron.

To keep from lulling Sabers into a false sense of security, EET members elected to spice things up during the exercise by throwing a curve ball.



Master Sgt. Sean E. Cobb

Airman 1st Class Anthony Brown, left, and Airman Ryan Sultana, both 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron mobility supply journeymen, tie down a pallet full of Keva bins Feb. 10 during Operation Desert Return 05-02. The plastic bins are packed four to a pallet and can hold about 95 war bags.

"As a subset of this exercise, we called a full spectrum threat response, which is basically simulation of a natural disaster with casualties," Major Barrera said of the mock hailstorm and simulated electrical damage. "We pulled medics, the fire department, the (52nd Civil Engineer Squadron), security forces and other first responders to see how they would handle this situation in addition to the simultaneous stress of a deployment."

Master Sgt. Terry Wise, 52nd MSS customer support NCOIC, and Tech. Sgt. James Wenger, 52nd CES assistant fire chief for operations, were two troops among many outstanding performers who, under pressure, respectively carried out casualty notification procedures and provided thorough direction to ensure rapid response to the FSTR exercise.

Sergeant Wise acted as personnel deployment function superintendent during the exercise.

See EXERCISE, Page 2

Exercise

Continued from Page 1

"The PDF troops are responsible for the 'last look' at all Sabers to ensure they are prepared to go down range," he said.

"These exercises are hard work for the wing," Major Barerra said. "There's a lot of taskwork required to deploy, but I think our people handled it well."

The 52nd Fighter Wing recognizes the distinctive efforts of the following individuals and performers:

Outstanding performers

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Walls, 52nd Fighter Wing Inspections Exercise Evaluation Team; **Senior Airman Timothy Cook**, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. James Wenger**, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron; **Staff Sgt. Everett Leseberg**, 52nd CES; **Staff Sgt. Robbie Collins**, 52nd CES; **Airman 1st Class Katie Smith**, 52nd CES; **Senior Airman Anthony Storey**, 52nd Comptroller Squadron; **Airman 1st Class Venture Carter**, 52nd Communications Squadron; **Staff Sgt. James Mitchell**, Equipment Maintenance Squadron; **Airman 1st Class Jay Weber**, 52nd EMS; **Senior**

Airman LaTonya Jackson, 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Airman 1st Class John Haskill**, 52nd Medical Support Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. Keith Hisle**, 52nd Mission Support Squadron; **Staff Sgt. Emily Gilmore**, 52nd MSS; **Airman 1st Class Shelenn Wilson**, 52nd MSS; **Capt. Sean Rassas**, 52nd Operations Support Squadron; **1st Lt. Eric Danielsen**, 52nd OSS; **Tech. Sgt. Fenton Fukushima**, 22nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit; **Staff Sgt. Devin Reeves**, 22nd AMU; **Senior Airman Amy Geiger**, 81st Aircraft Maintenance Unit

Outstanding teams

52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Gate guard team: Senior Airman Michael Miller and Airmen 1st Class Victor Randall and Brian Wilkinson

52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Vehicle dispatch: Staff Sgts. Dave Bittner and Theodore Seibold

Control deployment function: Airmen 1st Class Daniel Sera, Tavis Riley and Kimberly Walker

22nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit

Weapons load crew 5: Staff Sgt. Paul Sommerdyke, Senior Airman Michael Arevalo and Airman 1st Class Mitchel Shrauger

23rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit

Weapons load crew 37: Staff Sgt. Joseph Holdcraft, Senior Airman Sean Riggs and Airman 1st Class Jason Spradlin

Weapons load crew 2: Staff Sgt. Kyle Wood, Senior Airman Brandon Snipes and Airman 1st Class Lee Smith

81st Aircraft Maintenance Unit

Weapons load crew 15: Staff Sgt. Roddick Palmore, Senior Airman Raul Maldonado and Airman 1st Class Nicholas Pardo

New laser targeting pods strike with precision, lethality

Story and photo by
Senior Airman Amaani Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Pilots from the 22nd Fighter Squadron here acquired and began training Jan. 31 with a device that can ensure on-the-mark, high-tech avionics capability well into the 21st century.

The *Wild Weasel* F-16CJs are now equipped with the state-of-the-art Medium-Altitude Navigation Targeting Infrared for Night system, which expands an aircraft's ability to perform precision strike, night attack and beyond-visual-range interception missions.

The 22nd FS shares the upgrade and training with the 23rd FS. Capt. Gene Sherer, 22nd FS F-16 pilot, explained the upgrade's advantage and significance.

"We'll now be able to deliver precision munitions to guided bomb units and we're the first block 50 [F-16CJ] unit in [U.S. Air Forces in Europe] to use targeting pods."

According to the 1991 book, "Reaching Globally, Reaching Powerfully: The United States Air Force in the Gulf War," "In World War II it could take 9,000 bombs to hit a target the size of an aircraft shelter. In Vietnam, 300. Today we can do it with one laser-guided munition."

Captain Sherer said many F-117 and A-10 aircraft currently use the laser munitions systems successfully in theater. He foresees similar

lethality enhancement on 52nd Fighter Wing F-16s.

"When a block 50 rolls into town, we can employ almost any ordnance the Air Force has," Captain Sherer said. "That gives this wing an edge over units that use F-16s without targeting pods."

The edge also lies in the fact that pilots previously qualified on similar targeting systems can spin up in just one flight, as opposed to three or four flights for pilots with no experience, said the captain.

The cost of about \$1.5 million per targeting pod buys the 52nd FW F-16 fighter squadrons a number of options that increase the effectiveness of its jets, said Maj. John Vincent, 22nd FS D-flight commander.

"You can drop laser-guided bombs with ease or increase effectiveness at night," Major Vincent said. "You can even incorporate use of the targeting pod with the Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System, the electronic interface that puts critical data less than three inches from a pilot's right eye, the major said.

Suppression of enemy air defenses is paramount for a fighter pilot, who with the advent of laser targeting pods and the helmet interface system, no longer need to rely on their naked eyes alone to react to enemy fire.

"The use of these pods makes us more valu-



Capt. Travis Swan, 52nd Operations Support Squadron wing training chief, kneels next to the Medium-Altitude Navigation Targeting Infrared for Night system as he performs pre-flight checks on an F-16 aircraft Feb. 15.

able to downrange corps commanders who require precision-guided munitions in heavily populated areas where terrorists are believed to be located," Major Vincent said.

The system, which provides longer ranges, better zoom quality and simpler visual identification, minimizes collateral damage by pinpointing an insurgent's location with greater precision.

"We can drop a bomb on a specific building and save surrounding buildings to minimize the danger to civilians -- it's pretty phenomenal," Major Vincent said.

Captain Sherer underscored his confidence in the MANTIRN technology.

"When we get into combat and need to provide support to commanders who'll ask us what we can do, I'll say, 'Anything you want.'"

Team Eifel sees results of speeding, DUI

By **David A. Barker**
52nd Security Forces Squadron

One Team Eifel member had a DUI Feb. 5. Over the last two weeks there were also 38 accidents; 13 were classified as major.

An Airman from the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron failed a breathalyzer, testing at .135 after being stopped in a Polizei traffic check. The Airman was later transported to the Wittlich Polizei station and processed for driving under the influence.

February began with a major accident on A-60. Speeding caused the crash in which the car was totaled.

The second crash occurred on L-39 when a family member's speed

on icy roads caused a two-car collision.

The third crash, the result of speeding, took place at the Spangdahlem AB contractor gate.

The fourth crash involved a vehicle and a pedestrian, and occurred near the Bitburg Krankenhaus.

Investigation revealed the collision was the result of inattentive driving.

The fifth crash happened on K-11 in Wittlich. The driver drove through a ditch and hit a tree due to speeding.

Crash number six, the result of speeding, happened in the Mohrweiler area.

Last week's major crashes involved injuries. A collision hap-

pened in part from speeding, which resulted in a totaled car and injured driver. The driver was cut from the car and transported to the Bitburg Krankenhaus.

Major crashes eight, nine, 10 and 11 were on B-50 adjacent to Albachmule. Each collision was the result of speeding.

The twelfth collision happened in Trier, where inattentive driving compounded by speeding caused a crash.

The last major accident for the past two weeks was on the A-1 near Manderscheid. This accident was caused by speeding.

Team Eifel members were involved in 25 minor accidents: two from speeding, one was in a parking lot, seven from improper backing, 11 from inattentive driving, three with others at fault and one for following too closely.



Senior Airman Amaani Lyle

Home cookin'

(Left to right) Staff Sgt. Vanessa Evans, 52nd Aerospace Medical Squadron training manager, and Cindy Davis, 52nd Aerospace Medical Squadron commander's assistant, serve "soul food" to Maj. Robert Kesead, 52nd Aerospace Medical Squadron chief of optometry, as (center) Senior Master Sgt. Lovorn Brown, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron superintendent, looks on. In observance of Black History Month, the Multi-Cultural Committee joined members of the 52nd Fighter Wing Military Equal Opportunity office to make fried chicken, black-eyed peas, and sweet potato pie.



Staff Sgt. Jake Zapata

Top Saber Performer

Name: Staff Sgt. Sean Glick
Unit: 703rd Munitions Support Squadron, Volkel Air Base, the Netherlands
Duty title: Communications Maintenance supervisor
Hometown: Lewiston, Maine
Years in service: Six
Nominee's contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success: Sergeant Glick has completely overhauled the 703rd Munitions Support Squadron Communications Maintenance training program. He combined two Air Force Specialty codes into one, eliminating 126 duplicate tasks and accelerating skill-level upgrade by 12 months.

Sergeant Glick was recognized as both the communications flight and squadron expert for training, and his efforts directly contributed to the Outstanding Team award received during a recent Munitions Assistance visit.

What do you do for fun? I watch movies with my wife. I also enjoy playing basketball or video games.

Off-duty volunteerism and professional development pursuits: Sergeant Glick completed his Community College of the Air Force degree, and he plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He's also an active member of "Project Sober," a drunk-driving prevention program for Volkel Air Base.

What do you like most about being stationed here? I like the amount of administrative work I have learned. I also enjoy learning about the color guard.

What's one thing you'd like to see changed or improved at Spangdahlem Air Base? Morale; I would like to see a better sense of military family from people stationed here.

Wing lauds new STEP promotees

Staff reports

The following individuals have been promoted by Col. Dave Goldfein, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Jimmy Kelly, 52nd FW command chief, in the Steps to Promote Exceptional Performers Program.

STEP to master sergeant

Tech. Sgt. Terry Davis, 52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. Sandra E.**

Pocius, 52nd Medical Support Squadron.

Tech. Sgt. Rudolph Gunther, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, was STEP'd by Maj. Gen. Michael C. Gould, 3rd Air Force commander.

STEP to technical sergeant

Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Garza, III, 52nd FW Judge Advocate Group; **Staff Sgt. Joann Wise**, 52nd Mission Support Squadron



Senior Airman Amaani Lyle

Saber connect

Airman 1st Class Shelenn Wilson, 52nd Mission Support Squadron outbound assignment clerk, looks through Unit Personnel Records Groups Feb. 17. Col. Dave Goldfein, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, recently visited Airman Wilson as part of the Commander's Mentorship Program. Airman Wilson explained some of her administrative duties that ensure smooth processing for outbound Sabers. A Lawrence, Mass., native with two years of Air Force service, Airman Wilson cited her enrollment in speech and business law classes and her position on the dormitory council as notable accomplishments.

Eifel Salutes

52nd Mission Support Group

Airman 1st Class Kelly Brack bagged and answered a quick-turn travel order request for an NCO to ensure he made it to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe mobility bag conference in time to represent Spangdahlem AB. The golden child is **Staff Sgt. Jeremy Golden**, who manages receiving line operations by ensuring the prompt processing and movement of more than 3,000 aircraft and vehicle parts for the 52nd Fighter Wing. He also runs an "excellent"-rated vehicle control program for the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

52nd Operations Group

When it's time to train, he made tracks ... **1st Lt. Dave Jones** tackled the challenge of running the training shop to ensure all grade-books were updated and training products were correct.

52nd Maintenance Group

Rest assured ... the 52nd MXG quality assurance office salutes the **52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron F-16 Phase Dock team** for achieving a 100-percent pass rate in January.

52nd Medical Group

It's been a very good year for **Capt. Keith Waid** and **Tech. Sgt. Paula Balance**, who went above and beyond to pick up annual awards for their categories. **Shani Smith** sunk her teeth into learning the job demands of the 52nd Dental Squadron, and excelled in all areas. The honorable thing to do is salute **Staff Sgt. Ernesto Otero** for being selected



as the 52nd FW Honor Guard NCO of the Quarter. They threw out the welcome mat for returning Sabers ...

Senior Airman Michael Barnette, Airmen 1st Class Myre Behneke and Elizabeth

McDowell conducted no-notice re-integration briefings for more than 340 troops returning from deployments. Code salute ... **Tech. Sgt. Billy Bailey** provided emergency escort for two people to a medical facility

38th Munitions Maintenance Group

Networkin' it is the **701st Munitions Support Squadron**, Kleine Brogel, Belgium, Network Control Center for winning the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Communications and Information award. It's not all Greek to us when we think of why **Tech. Sgt. Christopher Greek** and **Capt. Marcus Corbett** deserve a salute -- they won the 38th Combat Support Wing NCO and CGO of the Year awards, respectively. Hats off to **Staff Sgt. Timothy Parsons**, who is the perfect package of customer service, postal operations, pick up and delivery. We're givin' **Senior Airman Christopher McKiven** a salute for providing 24-hour joint host nation and U.S. security command and control in the protection of a U.S. weapons arsenal valued at more than \$500 million.

Kudos to all; Team Eifel salutes you!
 (Compiled by Senior Airman Amaani Lyle, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)



Master Sgt. Robert Jones

Top Saber Team

Unit name: 703rd Munitions Support Squadron

A brief description of unit responsibilities: The geographically-separated unit is responsible for U.S. war reserve munitions in support of The Royal Netherlands Air Force, 1st Fighter Wing, in direct support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and its strike mission. The team is responsible for the ownership, custody, maintenance, and release of a \$500 million weapons stockpile.

Number of members: 140

How does the team fit into the 52nd Fighter Wing's mission? The 703rd MUNSS completed an outstanding year with a selection as the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Commander in Chief's Award for Organizational Excellence. The squadron has excelled in the face of many challenges, including stand up of a new group and wing. In addition to superb mission accomplishment, the squadron also instituted a vast array of quality-of-life improvements, including a newly renovated chapel, dining facility, command post and fitness training area.

Team's other contributions through the year? The squadron installed a new \$250,000 phone switch, and coordinated with Spangdahlem Air Base and the host nation to increase DSN capability by more than 300 percent. They completed a learning resource center upgrade that doubled site capacity and added \$7,000 worth of computers and furniture. The Ground Safety program was hailed as "one of the best programs ever seen" during their managerial inspection. The squadron also instituted an aggressive fitness training program, increasing strength and conditioning initiatives by more than 500 percent. Additionally, they supercharged the intramural sports program, increasing participation levels by an astounding 50 percent.



Airman 1st Class Eydie Sakura

Flu bug be gone

Staff Sgt. Tony Duranti, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron allergy immunization technician, administers the flu shot to Col. Scott West, 52nd Fighter Wing vice commander, Wednesday. During previous months, the flu vaccine was in short supply and was only administered to high-risk patients. Active duty members can now get the flu shot from the 52nd MDOS.

Civil service automated external hiring process delayed

The local civilian personnel office change in external hiring procedures has been delayed at least 30 days. Until further notice, individuals interested in civil service jobs at Spangdahlem Air Base will follow the same manual procedures previously used. The civilian personnel office has delayed the announcement of any vacancies until Tuesday to give candidates time to respond to this most recent change. Candidates are encouraged to use the AF Resumix system at <https://www2.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb/> to prepare their resume and provide a printed copy to personnel. For details, call CPO at 452-6080.

February is animal dental health month; pets may experience problems with teeth, gums

Staff reports

February is dedicated to client awareness and education concerning our companion animals' dental health.

Does your pet have bad breath or brown teeth? Does he drool excessively or have trouble eating? These are all signs of dental disease in our small animal companions. Imagine not brushing your teeth for years -- that is what happens in our pets.

Dental disease is often overlooked in pets, which is why annual visits to the veterinarian are important. The veterinarian or vet technician can make recommendations to the client concerning the pet's dental health.

Here are some quick facts about dental disease in our pets:

- Periodontal disease is currently the number one diagnosed problem in dogs and

cats over age three.

- Problems begin when food particles and bacteria build up in the mouth, forming plaque and mineralizing into tartar, which can lead to gingivitis and irreversible periodontal disease.

- Periodontal disease can result in other problems including tooth decay, bad breath, bleeding gums and even tooth loss.

- Bacteria that cause periodontal disease can even enter the bloodstream and damage the heart, liver, kidneys and lungs.

- According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, over 80 percent of dogs and 70 percent of cats show signs of oral disease by

the age of three years.

Gingivitis

Reversible inflammation of the gingiva, or reddened gums that often resolve with a dental cleaning

Periodontitis

Irreversible, progressive inflammation of the tissues, or gingiva, ligaments, cementum, or bone surrounding the tooth. Progression may be slowed with dedicated oral hygiene, but cannot be reversed.

Aging

Pure-breed cats and small breed dogs are most likely to develop periodontal disease as they age. Being aware of possible dental problems in pets is an important part of maintaining dental health throughout their lifetime.



PWRR Manager:

By Cedric Mitchell
52nd Communications Squadron

Saber customers submitting information technology requirements will soon be introduced to a new automated Web-based processing system.

As of March 1, the process, workflow, requirements and resources, or PWRR Manager will be the only approved automated communication requirements processing system in U.S. Air Forces in Europe, as mandated by Col. Steven Spano, the Director of Communications and Information.

PWRR Manager will replace the current paper-based system used by

the 52nd Communications Squadron to process requirements. From a user's perspective, PWRR (pronounced 'power') Manager will add a superior level of customer service. Customers will be able to create their own accounts, submit and track their requirements from conception to completion.

The change will begin here Wednesday for Sabers to use PWRR. All new requests must be entered into PWRR Manager instead of submitting an AF Form 3215, a Communication Systems Requirements Document. All existing open requirements will remain open until the requirement has been completed, or until it has been verified as no longer valid.

"Our goal is to minimize the disruption to our users during the transition period," said Airman 1st Class Rudy Rudoff, 52nd CS customer service technician. PWRR Manager is currently available for customers to submit requirements; after Wednesday, new requirements using the AF Form 3215 will not be accepted.

The immediate difference noticed with the new system is the user interface. There are a few more fields to fill in, separated by several screens. One improvement is that a customer can submit multiple commodities in one requirement. Under the old paper-based method, if a user needed a computer and a telephone, they had to

submit two requests. Now, when using PWRR Manager, both requirements are listed under one tracking number.

Colonel Spano, has designated PWRR Manager as the USAFE standard system for processing IT requirements. The system was created for Air Force Space Command and made available to any base or MAJCOM at no cost.

The USAFE Network Operations and Security Center identified existing hardware to host the system to further reduce deployment expenses. The purpose of establishing a MAJCOM standard is to reduce the number of locally developed systems across the command as well as allow the USAFE communications directorate staff visibility into the requirements being processed. Bases can quickly elevate requests to the staff for architecture or funding assistance.

On the other side, HQ USAFE can easily involve base communications units in downward-directed USAFE or Air Force-level projects.

In early December, the USAFE Computer Systems Squadron hosted a training seminar at Ramstein Air Base. The purpose was to bring the base PWRR administrators to one place to learn how to use the system directly from the software developer. During the recent training, the AFSPC Program Manager, Ms. Connie Armstrong said, "With

a little bit of training and some practice, users will quickly adapt to the new system."

Eleven USAFE sites sent representatives to the two-day session and will be using PWRR Manager.

The Air Force Portal, located at <https://www.my.af.mil>, is the connection to PWRR Manager. Once logged in, the "My Org" page will

bring up USAFE information. In the "Unique to Us" section, there is a link to PWRR Manager. People can also access it via the Web at <https://webasp.usafe.af.mil/pwrr>. For more information, visit the 52nd CS at <http://intranet/52fw/52msg/52cs/SCX/> or call Airman 1st Class William Rudoff at 452-6548.

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U.S. AIR FORCE



Iris Reiff

Welcome home

Daviante Erskine gives his dad, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Erskine, a hug, welcoming him back from deployment Tuesday night. Forty-four 52nd Security Forces Squadron members returned from a six-month deployment at Camp Doha, Kuwait, where the Airmen performed customs duties and provided base security for troops in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the *Eifel Times* and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

■ DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil

■ Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126

■ To PA in building 23.

■ Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more information.



Col. Dave Goldfein

February Sortie Scoreboard

Aircraft	Goal	Flown	Delta
22FS	353	168	-2
23FS	346	183	+21
81FS	291	73	-51

*Delta is contract vs. sorties flown to date.

Through Feb. 15

Courtesy of the
52nd Operations Support Squadron
Plans and Scheduling Section

Viewpoint

Feb. 18, 2005

Page 5

MMG commander shares thoughts on leadership, recognition, team efforts

By Col. Richard Naughton

38th Munitions Maintenance Group commander

Don't Wait...Lead Now! If you are not yet leading – you soon will be – so prepare. Our Air Force focuses a lot of resources on developing tomorrow's leaders. The amount of time and effort spent on various levels of professional military training; mentoring and unit training is second to none. However, these external sources are only half the equation -- the other is the internal source, i.e. us. We all have a responsibility to take these leadership concepts and develop them into our own unique style -- to make them part of us. If we do not, these like any other potential skills, will wither away. Unfortunately, many are initially apprehensive to practice these new concepts -- no one wants to trip up in public.

However, to finally be in a leadership position and not fully use and develop these skills is to let our troops, units and Air Force down. As Donald McGannon states "Leadership is action, not position." So, the question now becomes: how do we translate these concepts into action -- and do so with confidence? One approach is to have a plan -- one that builds upon proven concepts and allows you to provide direction and tempo to your unit -- one that gives you the initiative to follow through in developing your troops – one that eliminates any hesitancy and allows you to set theory into action.

See yourself as a leader

First and foremost you must see yourself as a leader and accept the responsibilities of: 1. putting the mission and troops ahead of yourself; and 2. continuing to develop your skills by practicing different methods; reading on leadership; reflecting on what works for you; and when necessary correcting your approach. This will be an ongoing commitment for the rest of your career... the rest of your life. Once you know your role -- and have committed to it -- then it is time to set the direction for your unit.. Whether it be the one airman you now supervise or the several hundred later in your career, you must view yourself and your troops as a unit.

Develop your vision, intent

You now have a unit to lead (again this may only be one troop... for now) but where are you going to take it? This will require considerable thought and should be contained in the vision you develop. This vision will state how you - the leader - see your unit completing its mission. It must be in line with the goals of the chain of command and easily understood by your troops. For example, the 38th Munitions Maintenance Group's mission is "to ensure our squadrons are ready to defend, maintain, and employ NATO's premier weapons to the highest possible standards -- each and every day." Given this mission, we must have a vision that: creates focus; sets direction; synergizes resources and informs the unit where it is going. A clear vision of a worthwhile purpose coupled with your commitment is one of

the great motivators. You must take time and develop where you want your unit to go. Do not do this in a vacuum, but get inputs from up and down your chain. Once you've factored in this advice, then you -- the leader -- develop the vision and stick to it. Get this initial part right and it will save a lot of time later on. Based on our mission, the group's vision is: "We will ensure our squadrons are structured, resourced, trained and standardized to achieve the highest level of readiness -- our focus is their success -- over 550 Airmen in four countries depend on it!" Based on this, each subordinate leader will develop their vision statement -- each knowing the importance of daily readiness and those who depend on them.

All commanders also have a tool known as the commander's intent – this is based on the vision and should not be restricted to only commanders. No matter what level you lead, your troops must know the leader's intent -- it will allow them freedom to operate within your guidelines when you are not there. It will also allow them to develop into future leaders. For example, the 38th MMG's focus on readiness is: "If we are not at war or maintaining, we will be training." This allows the subordinate leaders to once again prioritize correctly.

Communicate the vision

Once you have developed these concepts, you must get the word out and never let it fade. Wear your vision like the shirt on your back. When your troops look at you, that vision should be right there with your nametag. Each and every day bring it up either by conversation; asking questions; feedback sessions; unit meetings; newsletters, posted signs, etc. It's up to you... but never let it fade.

Stay the course

Once the course is set, your troops should expect you and those around them will stick to the plan. If you continually change your mind, you will undermine your credibility and the mutual trust your unit needs. Flexibility is important, but changes should be small course corrections leading to the original objective -- the vision leading to mission accomplishment. As time goes on, variables not previously seen may appear and you will need to adjust. The freedom of movement that your leader's intent provides will allow your troops to take action quickly, independently and within the objective you set. In addition, you will need to ensure you hold the standards -- firmly and fairly. Your team has a right to know that all will stay the course. This ensures accountability and predictability -- in a phrase, they "trust your leadership."

Build the team

In our Air Force we spend considerable time highlighting individuals for outstanding achievement. This should be fresh in our minds as we have just finished up the annual awards -- most of them individual categories. These are important and our great Airmen should be recognized! However, we must always highlight our teams. As most of us

know, it is the team that accomplishes the mission and ultimately wins wars. It is the team that makes good units great -- it is the team that gets that "extra" capability that ensures success.

Therefore, it is helpful for leaders at every level to continually view their troops as a team. This means every day letting the individuals know that they are part of a greater effort. Their professional goals should be, in part, tied directly to the performance of the team. When organizing tasks or conducting training, teams should be used. Once a team is set up, it should not be haphazardly broken apart by moving individuals around. When you move an individual you are actually affecting the entire team. Chances are you are negatively impacting your unit's capability. When moving an individual, always think of the longer game -- how does this affect the team? In building that capability, putting units in stressful, well-planned training exercises will mold a team and build camaraderie, confidence and mission capability. Finally, ensure that when your teams are successful that you reward them as a team, and help them to continually build their team's outstanding reputation.

Set the priorities

"3M's:" Now that your troops understand the mission, vision and leaders' intent – what do they do when they have competing priorities? One answer is to follow the "3M's." This means taking care of the Mission first; the Members in the unit second and finally don't forget to take care of yourself (Me). As the leader, you must ensure that this mindset exists throughout your unit – and they must know you sincerely believe in this order. There are few that are better than our Airmen at seeing through those who are "acting the part." If you are not sincerely concerned about the mission first and the members, they will know, and that will undermine your credibility every time. You as the leader must practice the art of balancing these "3M's." The mission is always first, but it doesn't mean every time "mission" is mentioned you surge your troops. You must pace your unit to accomplish the mission – set the right tempo. Otherwise, when you need it the capability may not be there. Secondly, you must take care of your troops. As we all know, they are the ones that get the mission done. They are your responsibility – don't forget it! Finally, do not forget to take care of yourself. If you don't take some downtime and "recharge the batteries," your effectiveness will dwindle – your unit will suffer.

Press on... Lead

So, as a developing leader (and we all are), you should be armed with leadership concepts taught and practiced at professional military education. You now have the structure that requires you to set the course of your unit through your vision and intent. You will need to continually transmit that vision; ensure standards are understood and upheld; build trust by staying the course; shore up your teams and take care of priorities in the right order. Given all this, what are you waiting for? Lead now!

Multi-cultural committee sponsors BHM events

The Spangdahlem Air Base Multi-Cultural Committee sponsors the following Black History Month events:

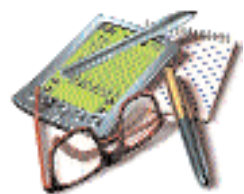
Tuesday -- Black history scavenger hunt

at the Spangdahlem AB fitness center, 2-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday -- Knowledge bowl, 9:30 a.m. at the Spangdahlem AB theater.

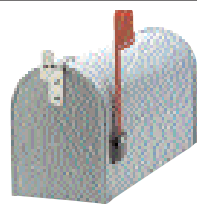
Wednesday -- Breakfast at the new Club Eifel, 8 a.m. (Guest speaker is Col. Richard Weathers, Sembach, Germany). For details, call Staff Sgt. Vanessa Evans at 452-8342.

Trivia tidbit: On this day in 1931, Toni Morrison, who won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel "Beloved," is born in Lorain, Ohio



Community Mailbox

Submit "Community Mailbox" advertisements 10 days before the desired publication date to publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil.



Teen aviation camp

The 52nd Services Eifel Youth Programs are accepting registration for the Teen Aviation Camp through today. The camp is scheduled for June 4-9 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado. Eligible high school sophomores or juniors during the 2005-06 school years who are interested in attending the Air Force Academy or making the Air Force a career are encouraged to apply. For more information, call the Youth Center at 452-7545 or 06565-61-7545. Register in person at the Spangdahlem Youth Center or the Bitburg Teen Center.

Scavenger hunt

A Project CHEER scavenger hunt takes place Saturday from 6-10 p.m. at the Brick House. Participants will have four hours to find items throughout the base. Bring a partner or find one at the Brick House. Prizes are awarded for first, second and third place. For details, call 452-7381 or stop by building 124.

Federal employment

The family support center offers a Local Federal Employment Process class Tuesday from 2-3 p.m. at Spangdahlem AB, building 192 in the education center computer lab. The course is a hands-on training class, which will teach people the new application procedures at civilian personnel. For more information, call Amy Uptergrove at 452-6894 or e-mail her at amy.uptergrove@spangdahlem.af.mil.

Family support center news

All classes take place at the family support center, Spangdahlem AB, building 307 unless otherwise noted. For details, call 06565-61-6422 or 452-6422.

- ♦ Tuesday: Funding Your College Education, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesday: Creative Critters, 10-11 a.m. at Bitburg Annex, building 2001
- ♦ Wednesday: Key spouse meeting, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bitburg Annex, building 2001
- ♦ Thursday: German Bills Made Easy, 8-9 a.m.
- ♦ Thursday: His, Hers, Theirs: Creating Step-Family Success, 9:30 to

11:30 a.m. at Bitburg Annex, building 2001

♦ Thursday: Mutual Fundamentals: The Basics, 6-8 p.m. at Spangdahlem AB, building 151.

♦ Friday: Train trip to Trier, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

♦ Saturday: Give Parents A Break, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Birthday meal

The Mosel Hall Dining Facility offers a free birthday meal Feb. 25 from 5-7 p.m. for all meal card holders, born during the months of January through March. People can make a reservation by e-mail at 52svs.svmf@spangdahlem.af.mil. For more information, call 452-6727.

Club Eifel membership

Club Eifel is sponsoring a membership drive now through April 30. New members joining during the drive are eligible to win an assortment of prizes, plus the grand prize of a luxury vacation worth \$5,000 to Venice, Italy, at a five-star hotel. Sabers can pick up an application at the new Club Eifel.

ACT Eifel

ACT Eifel features its newest production entitled, "Eclipsed," which was inspired by the practice of making pregnant and unwed Irish mothers work as "penitents" in church-run laundries. The practice started during the last famine and lasted well into the 1960s. Tickets are on sale for \$19.95 per person for the March 18, 20, 25 and 26 show dates. The production is in need of volunteers with interests in technical support, hair, makeup, sound and set construction. For more information on the play and the menu, call 452-7381 or stop by Spangdahlem AB, building 124.

Girl Scouts

The Girls Scouts Overseas at Spangdahlem AB need volunteers to get involved, primarily people who excel at managerial, organizational and multi-tasking skills. For details, call Tim Hezel at 0170-662-7776 or e-mail him at thezel@t-online.de.

Eifel Community Center

The 52nd Services Eifel Community

Center hosts the following events:

♦ Bi-Okoto African-American Drum & Dance Theater takes place Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. in the Brick House. Enjoy this free performance in celebration of Black History month. Families are welcome.

♦ The Dorm Dwellers' Challenge HALO 2 tournament kicks off March 6 at 6 p.m. in the Brick House. This free event could help an Airman's dorm earn points for the Dorm Dwellers' Challenge.

♦ The USAFE Idol Competition application deadline is March 9. The USAFE Idol show takes place March 26 at 7 p.m. in the Brick House. The competition is looking for Airmen with singing talent to be the next USAFE Idol. For more information, log on to the USAFE Services Website at www.usafesvsmarketing.org and click on the USAFE Idol icon.

For details, call the Eifel Community Center at 452-7381 or 06565-61-7381.

Dr. Seuss' birthday

Help celebrate Dr. Seuss' 101st birthday March 2 from 4-5 p.m. at the Spangdahlem AB and Bitburg Annex libraries. For more information, call Stephanie Evers at 452-6203.

Camp Lachenwald

The Girl Scouts Overseas at Spangdahlem AB offers a resident camp at Camp Lachenwald, near Marburg, Germany, for girls ages 7-17. Sessions are four to 10 days long, and girls can choose from an array of themed sessions including canoeing, horseback riding and theater skills. Camp programs are open to all girls, even if they are not Girl Scouts. Parents can check out the Camp Lachenwald Web site at www.norags.com/camplachenwald. There will be an information night March 4 at the Spangdahlem AB chapel. For details, call Bobby Anzalone 452-9190.

Puppy kindergarten

Dog obedience and puppy kindergarten classes begin March 1 at the Pet Spa in Oberweiss. The six-week course is held each Tuesday and includes dog obedience at 6 p.m. and kindergarten at 7:30 p.m. for puppies under six months old. For details, call 452-9362.

Chapel Services

Singles and unaccompanied home-cooked dinner

The Spangdahlem AB chapel hosts February's singles and unaccompanied dinner Thursday at 5 p.m. at the chapel, building 135. The home-cooked meal is free, and the volunteers will be serving Mexican food, such as tacos, burritos, chips and salsa and more. For more information on the monthly Combat TOUCH program, call the chapel at 452-6711 or 452-6281.



For more information regarding on- and off-base chapel services, call the chapel office at 452-6711/6281/6179. To get in contact with a chaplain after duty hours, call the Command Post at 452-6141 or 06565-616141.

What's happening at Club Eifel this week?

Thursday, February 24, 5-8 p.m.

SHRIMP FEAST BUFFET

Peel and eat shrimp (served hot & cold), shrimp creole with white rice, golden fried shrimp, Club Eifel's famous seafood gumbo, shrimp fajita fixin's with warmed flour tortillas, shrimp fettuccini with creamy Alfredo sauce, baked white fish fillet with herbed bread crumbs, grilled chicken breast with sauteed peppers, fresh fish tacos, New Orleans dirty rice, and more!

Adult members, \$11.95 (nonmembers \$14.95)
Children (6-12) of members, \$5.00 (children of nonmembers, \$8)
All children under five eat free!

Champagne Sunday Brunch

Sunday, Feb 20, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 452-4642

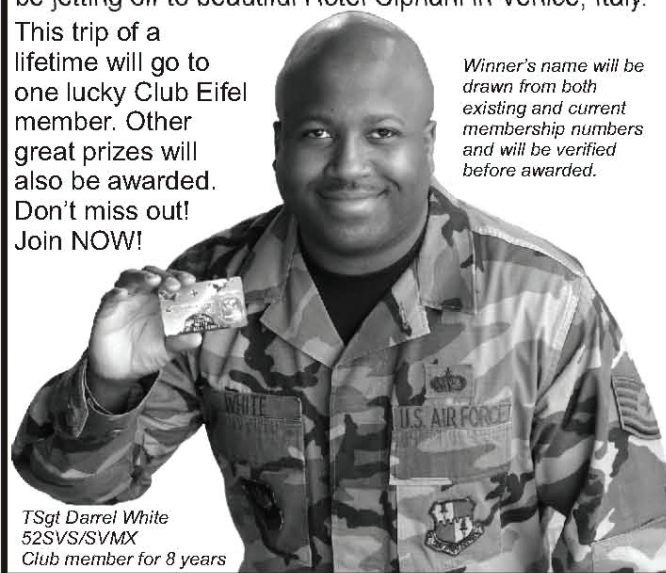
Crab legs, peel 'n' eat shrimp, warm pancakes, buttermilk biscuits, southern grits, savory grilled home fries, sausage, crispy bacon, scrambled eggs, golden honey fried chicken, steamed buttery vegetables, roasted new potatoes, full salad bar, omelet bar, Belgian waffles with toppings, carved honey cured ham, steamship round of beef, and... champagne!

Adult members, \$12 (nonmember \$15)
Children (ages 6-12) of members \$6 (children of nonmembers, \$7.50)
All children under five eat free!

It's all about NEW! MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Join Club Eifel between February 1 and April 30 during Club Eifel's current membership drive and you could be jetting off to beautiful Hotel Cipriani in Venice, Italy.

This trip of a lifetime will go to one lucky Club Eifel member. Other great prizes will also be awarded. Don't miss out! Join NOW!



Winner's name will be drawn from both existing and current membership numbers and will be verified before awarded.

TSgt Darrel White
52SVS/SVMX
Club member for 8 years



Der Markt

Free classifieds policy and submission deadlines

Der Markt is for the personal resale of items by military and civilian employees and their families. Items such as advertisements for rental property won't be published due to funded paper restraints. Ads should be 35 words or less and customers are limited to no more than two ads per week. Ads must be typed or printed legibly and turned into the public affairs office, building 23, at least 10 days before the desired date of publication. Ads can also be e-mailed to publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil or sent via fax to 452-5254. Having ads in by deadline does not guarantee publication. Ads for services generating regular income will not be published. The ads must include the sponsor's name and telephone number. Ads not meeting these requirements, including those exceeding the designated word limits, will not be printed. The Eifel Times staff reserves the right to edit ads.

Movies

Times and movies are subject to change. For the most current information, call 06565-61-9441 or 452-9441. Movie synopses are available at www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp.

Bitburg Castle

Today

Phantom of the Opera (PG-13, 7 p.m.)

A disfigured musical genius haunts the catacombs beneath the Paris Opera, waging a reign of terror over its occupants. When he falls in love with the lovely Christine, the Phantom devotes himself to creating a new star for the Opera.

Saturday

Ocean's Twelve (PG-13, 7 p.m.)

Danny Ocean and his crew, having successfully stolen \$150 million from Las Vegas casinos, jet to Europe with three new heists planned, including swiping Rembrandt's "Nightwatch" from a gallery in Amsterdam.

Phantom of the Opera (PG-13, 9:30 p.m.)

Sunday

Blade: Trinity (R, 7 p.m.)

Realizing they may never be able to defeat Blade the Dayhunter, vampires set Blade up to appear like a psychopathic serial killer.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

Ocean's Twelve (7 p.m.)

Thursday

Phantom of the Opera (7 p.m.)

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

Racing Stripes (PG, 7 p.m.)

In the middle of a raging thunderstorm, a traveling circus accidentally leaves behind a baby zebra. The gangly animal is rescued by a champion thoroughbred trainer who believes the young foal can leave other race horses in the dust.

Closer (R, 10 p.m.)

Based on a play by Patrick Marber, couples find out that love can disappoint when one of them experiences an affair.

Saturday

Flight of the Phoenix (PG-13, 7 p.m.)

After surviving a plane crash over the Gobi Desert, Captain Frank Towns and his air crew face the challenges of surviving an attack by desert smugglers as they build a new plane from the wreckage.

Closer (10 p.m.)

Sunday

Racing Stripes (4 p.m.)

Flight of the Phoenix (7 p.m.)

Monday

Flight of the Phoenix (7 p.m.)

Tuesday

Racing Stripes (PG, 7 p.m.)

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Goodbye, winter ...

Illumination of cross during Lent signifies hope for good harvest

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

During the Lenten season, people traveling in the Eifel region will likely see crosses burning in the night. For locals, such traditions date back to ancient superstitious attempts to chase away cold weather.

Medieval winter carnival customs included parades and plays in which straw or twig dolls representing winter were led through the villages and burned. Today, the winter bonfire, especially the illumination of a cross, signifies hope for a good harvest.

The custom is practiced in the Eifel region on the first Sunday in Lent. Village youth traditionally gather the wood for the bonfires and post guard over the area until about 8 p.m. Food and beverages keep the party from getting boring. In some villages, youth wear specially designed hats and T-shirts with the word "Strohhuette" printed on them. During the festival, the oldest male youth reads a paper, which was put together by the villagers and covers amusing events that happened in town in the past year.

After most of the fire has burned, the youth visit village houses reciting poems, singing songs and collecting butter, eggs, flour

and milk. With the ingredients, a bakery or women in town bake waffles for everyone, which are eaten at the village hall or a local guesthouse. In some villages they take the ingredients to the couple that got married last in the community and ask them to bake an egg cake. Only singles can participate in this event.

Even though most people believe the fire is related to chasing away the winter spirits, there are historical documents that say otherwise. Since "Huette" means "stake," the Huetten bonfire tradition is similar to the times when witches were condemned to be burned at the stake. The ritual fire, used for purification and to ward off evil spirits, has a dual meaning.

There is no clear explanation or definition for the bonfire tradition; however, it still provides a fun community event.

In some areas, wheels or barrels wrapped in straw are set ablaze and rolled down the hills as fire wheels. In former times when farming still played a very important role in the Eifel life, townspeople watched closely what direction the smoke went. If it went over a corn field they believed the next harvest would be rich and good. Although today's farmer no longer depends on this prognosis tool, the Eifel people enjoy and keep carrying on the tradition.



Courtesy photo

Big band swing

The professional German military Big Band of the Bundeswehr performs a welfare concert March 8 at 8 p.m. in the Trier Europa hall. Doors open at 7 p.m. when a limited number of tickets will be available for 12 euros. To reserve tickets, call 0651-700161 or 700164 or e-mail benefizkonzert@palais-ev.de. Swing, jazz, soul, hip-hop, rap and modern music will be played. The Big Band of the Bundeswehr is known as one of Europe's most popular shows, and proceeds from the Trier concert will go toward children's aid.



Out and About



(Editor's note: Event dates and times are subject to change. To confirm event details, call the telephone information office at 11833 and ask for a number to the tourist office in the town the event takes place. For event tickets, call the Press-Center Trier at 06511-459930, the Trier Tourist Information Office at 06519-780822 or the Trier Ticket Service at 06519-941188, unless specified otherwise.)

■ The annual Bitburg Bierfest, a festival similar to Oktober Fest, takes place each **Friday and Saturday, starting today through March 19**. Entertainment by first-class bands, dance music and food specialties are available in a large heated tent. Groups of 10 or more should reserve tables by calling 06561-91500. For more information about the festival, visit www.bitburger-bierfest.de. The festival tent is located on the Bitburg Flugplatz. The

Eifel Stern, located near the event site, offers rooms at a discount price for festival attendees. Visit www.eifelstern.com for more information.

■ Enjoy a classical concert **Sunday** at 7 p.m. at the Bitburg House Beda Cultural Center. The concert features contemporary love songs, Baroque tunes, a-capella singing and jazz. Tickets cost 10 euros for adults and 5 euros for students. To reserve a ticket, call 06561-6001220 or 225 or e-mail haus.beda@t-online.de.

■ Shop at local flea markets on **Sunday** at the Machern cloister located near the Mosel town of Zeltingen-Rachtig; in front of the Trier-Nord Ratio market; inside and outside the Pruem Mehrzweck hall and in front of the Koblenz Metro.

■ Anastacia performs **Feb. 23** in the Frankfurt Festhalle. For more information, call the Trierischer Volksfreund Press

Center at 0651-1459930.

■ The Temptations perform **March 19** at 8 p.m. at the Trier Messepark fairgrounds. For more information or tickets, call 0651-4362258 or 0160-99742133.

■ A guided shopping tour of Wittlich takes place **March 29** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call the base family support center at 452-6422 for details and to register.

■ Reserve tickets now for the annual Rock at the Ring open-air rock festival taking place **June 3-5** at the Nuerburg ring race track. For more information, call the Trierischer Volksfreund Press Center at 0651-1459930.

■ Sonny Rhodes Band plays the blues **June 10** in the Luxembourg Saal Sang & Klang. For more information, call the Trierischer Volksfreund Press Center at 0651-1459930.

Bitburg Bears hockey team takes third place at USAFE tournament

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Eydie Sakura
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany -- Mark Degironimo, an exchange pilot with the Dutch Air Force who is currently stationed at Ramstein Air Base, scored three goals to lead the Bitburg Annex Bears to a third-place victory; a 5-3 blow out over the Aviano Air Base, Italy, Ice Dragons in the 2005 U.S. Air Forces in Europe ice hockey tournament here Sunday.

The victory was bittersweet for the Bears after losing to the Geilenkirchen Flyers 1-3 Saturday, eliminating the Bears from the first and second place final championship game, and pitting them in the losing bracket -- playing for third place.

"Everyone [at the tournament] is talking about us because we're a totally different team from years past," said Lane Goodnough, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron engine production superintendent. "The last couple of years we have ranked seventh or eighth. Now we're playing for third."

In the past four years, the Bears were at the bottom of the barrel, but this year, the team had the chemistry and the talent to make a name for themselves in the tournament.

In the first period, Degironimo's first goal, with an assist by Terry Courtney, 606th Air Control Squadron assistant director of operations, launched the Bears to a 1-0 lead. The Ice Dragons answered back, tying the game 1-1, but Courtney kicked it into high gear and put the biscuit in the basket for the Bears' second goal, making the score 2-1.

In the second period, the Ice Dragons hit the back of the net and scored their second goal against the Bears goalie, Dave Grimes, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief. But within minutes, Degironimo's fancy stick handling scored another goal for the Bears, propelling them to a 3-2 lead.

Minutes after a face off, Bears player Aaron Poeschel, 606th ACS NCOIC of computer maintenance, took it up a notch against the Ice Dragons goalie, making the score 4-2.



Jamie Jordan (number 22), 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron commanders executive assistant, helps Bitburg Bears goalie Dave Grimes, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, block a goal during Saturday's semi-final game against the Geilenkirchen Flyers in Garmisch, Germany. The Flyers beat the Bears 3-1, advancing them to the championship round, while the Bears played for third place Sunday against the Aviano Air Base, Italy, Ice Dragons. The Bears beat the Ice Dragons 5-3.

Degironimo picked up a hat trick with his next goal, pumping up the lead to a three-goal lead margin at 5-2.

A play on-the-fly caused an Ice Dragon player to snag the puck and skate toward open ice in the Bears' territory. His efforts pushed the score up to 5-3.

With three minutes remaining, tempers flared and a fight broke out in Ice Dragon territory, causing two players from each team to head toward the penalty box. The loss of so many players on the ice caused the Ice Dragons to pull their goalie, replacing him with a forward player as a last-minute attempt to score.

With 30 seconds left on the clock, Bears player Doug Huttenlocker, 52nd Mission Support Squadron deputy chief of manpower and organization, flew down the rink into Ice Dragon territory at their unprotected net, to make a solo attempt at a goal, but an Ice Dragon player caught up to Huttenlocker and blocked his effort.

The horn blew and the Bears nipped the Ice Dragons 5-3 in a nail-biter game for third place.



Phil Sawin (left), 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron F-16 dedicated crew chief, burns up the ice by racing past an opposing player from Geilenkirchen, Germany, Saturday during the semi-final game.

"I was optimistic for a win while playing this game, but I really wanted to play for first place and not third place," said Kamal Kaaoush, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron AGE Flight commander.

In the championship game for first and second place, the Geilenkirchen

Flyers beat the combined United Kingdom team of Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, and RAF Mildenhall, England, Warbirds, 4-2 in the championship game.

The Flyers have won the USAFE ice hockey tournament three years in a row.

Bitburg Bears team players include:

- ♦ Russ Quinn
- ♦ Tony Retka
- ♦ Terry Courtney
- ♦ Mark Degironimo
- ♦ Doug Huttenlocker
- ♦ Kamal Kaaoush
- ♦ Aaron Poeschel
- ♦ Mike Checkley
- ♦ Jeff Barr
- ♦ Lane Goodnough
- ♦ Jamie Jordan
- ♦ Dave Grimes
- ♦ Phil Sawin
- ♦ Jeremy Hill
- ♦ Gianpierre Salazar
- ♦ Robert Black
- ♦ Mike Fusaro
- ♦ Ian Borgelt

Fit To Be Yourself



The health and wellness center offers a three-part "Fit To Be Yourself" class Wednesday, March 2 and March 9 at Spangdahlem AB, building 130, HAWC conference room. The class is designed for parents and children to instill the values of a healthier lifestyle at a younger age. The class will feature cooking demonstrations, healthy snack alternatives and fitness demonstrations geared toward school-age children. For more information, call Mandy Baerman at 452-6995.

Sports Briefs

Intramural basketball

Come out and watch the men's and women's last varsity basketball game Feb. 26 at the fitness center. The men's game kicks off at 1 p.m., and the women's game begins at 3 p.m. For details, call the fitness center at 452-6496.

National nutrition month

Run or walk to a healthier, happier lifestyle at the national nutrition month 5K fun runs March 1 and 31. The 5K starts at noon each day and begins at the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center. Participants may run or walk the course, and strollers and pets are welcome. For details, call the fitness center at 452-6496.

Women's soccer

Women interested in joining the Spangdahlem AB women's soccer team should call Staff Sgt. Annjeanette Haro at 452-7182.

Tobacco cessation

The health and wellness center offers a tobacco cessation class March 2 at noon and 5 p.m. The noon class takes place in the HAWC conference room, and the 5 p.m. class is in the Bitburg Hospital conference room. The class helps participants kick the habit while focusing on improving their quality of life. For details, call Tech. Sgt. Edith Fields at 452-7385.